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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

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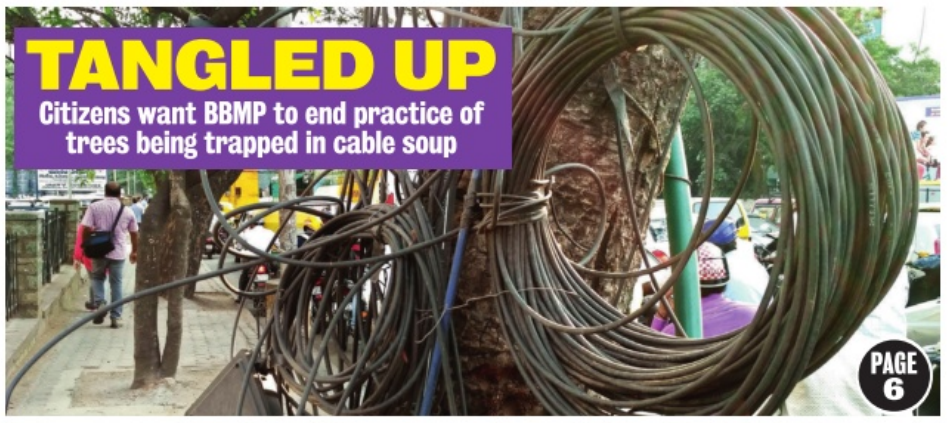

TANGLED UP

Citizens want BBMP to end practice of trees being trapped in cable soup

PAGE 6

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Report terms state of environment in country over last 10 years 'exacerbating crisis'

PAGE 7

Among all other disturbances caused by water tankers tearing across the city, earsplitting honking in the wee hours is most unbearable

IT MIGHT GET LOUD

Low penalties imposed by traffic police for noise pollution violation main reason

| Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Sheila Rao, an 80-year-old resident of Whitefield, keeps the windows in her bedroom shut when she retires to bed.

Loud and shrill horns from a never-ending fleet of water tankers in the early morning disturb her and wake her from sleep if she leaves it open. Rao says while tankers in the area were always notorious for honking unnecessarily and using banned shrill and multi-tonal horns, the situation has become precarious after the water scarcity issue.

Frequent water shortage in the area has led to a sea of water tankers that start plying at 5 am, blowing pneumatic musical horns by compulsion even though there is no traffic to hinder their passage.

"We shifted to the area nearly 10 years ago and while water tankers have always been using illegal horns, the increase in demand has made the problem bigger. They pass by every few minutes and at odd hours. In a day, at least 20 tankers pass by my house, while using multi-tonal horns," said Rao.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

Due to a water shortage, city had seen a rise in the number of water tankers on its roads

"I have raised complaints regarding illegal horns on multiple occasions with local traffic police. They assure that measures will be taken, but nothing changes on ground. This is not a priority for Bengaluru Traffic Police

— Raja Kannan, Hulimavu resident

High density corridor cruise control

Vehicle break-downs that cause traffic pile-ups may be penalised

| Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Bengalureans stepping out on the high-density corridors should now ensure that their vehicle is topped with fuel and has spare tyres. Traffic cops are planning to book cases against vehicle owners who run out of fuel on roads or omit to carry spare tyres.

The vehicle will be seized and owners will be asked to pay the fine in court.

The move comes in the backdrop of vehicle breakdowns causing pile-ups even as the vehicle is getting repaired or moved to the side.

Traffic cops were seen pushing a goods vehicle on Hebbal flyover and according to them, after seeing the breakdown vehicle caused pileups, they pushed the faulty vehicle for half a kilometre away.

"We are planning to take action against vehicle owners who cause the breakdown of vehicles due to their negligence. In such cases, it leads to traffic piles up especially in high-density corridors during peak hours. It is the responsibility of the vehicle owners to ensure that vehicles are filled with fuel.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12 »

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Brakes on drink driving

4,730 vehicles checked in city, 136 cases booked

Ahna Prakash
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Traffic South Division of Bengaluru city conducted a special drive targeting motorists driving under the influence of alcohol and violating traffic rules.

This drive comes after the Pune tragedy, where two people died in a car crash caused by a teenager who was allegedly driving under the influence.

This drive, which covered all police stations under its jurisdiction, resulted in significant enforcement actions.

During the drive, a total of 4,730 vehicles were checked across various areas, leading to 136 cases being booked for driving under the influence.

In VV Puram, out of 517 vehicles checked by the police, six cases were booked for driving under influence. Basavanagudi had nine cases booked among the 298 vehicles checked. Jayanagara, with one of the highest violation rates, saw 19 cases booked from 150 vehicles checked. Banashankari recorded eight cases from 421 vehicles checked, while KS Layout had 12 cases from 457 vehicles. Talagattapura had eight cases from 416 vehicles, and Adugodi had 13 cases from 394 vehicles checked. Mico Layout saw eight cases booked from 225 vehicles checked, and Madivala had 11 cases from 408 vehicles checked. Hulimavu and HSR Layout both recorded seven cases each, from 154 and 135 vehicles checked respectively. Electronics City had the highest number of vehicles checked at 555, resulting in 15 cases booked from 600 vehicles checked. Lastly, Bellandur saw 13 cases booked from 600 vehicles checked.

"We are seeing a lot of accidents happening due to drinking and driving. So, we have set up checklists in 41 places and conducted the drive. We seize the vehicles; they have to pay a fine in court, and we will send the driving licenses for cancellation," said South Division Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) for traffic, Shiva Prakash Devaraju.

Three is a crowd on 2-wheelers

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The traffic police have registered more than 62,000 cases of triple riding so far this year. The number has crossed nearly more than half of last year's cases.

According to police data, 62,688 cases have been registered so far in 2024 for triple riding. This is 53% of 2023 figures, which had seen 1,17,738 cases. However, 2023 saw a 27.59% decrease from 2022 with 1,62,617 cases.

Traffic cops say that most of the triple-riding violations involve minors. "In February and March, we conducted drives around schools and colleges.

In the drive spanning two weeks, we identified violations of a modified licence, driving without a licence, and triple-riding violations. In cases of second offence, we can book riders under IPC. In the case of minors, parents also can be booked.

In cases of accidents caused while triple riding, action can be taken against both the driver and owner. Currently, the pillion riders cannot be penalised," said a senior traffic official.

Experts say minors usually ride triple. "Most of the triple riding does not happen on major roads. These violations happen on ward roads. Youngsters can be seen triple-riding and without helmets. There is a need for more monitoring of ward roads and the installation of cameras.

Densely populated areas and junctions should be monitored. Even Hoysala police who are often seen in ward roads should be authorised to issue challan for traffic violations," said mobility activist, Rajkumar Dugar.

|| Jai Sri Gurudev ||
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2 THINGS TO DO

01 Fusion of folk & reggae

Experience the enigma of folk and reggae fusion with the Chowraasta Band as they perform live at Sunburn Union, Bangalore. This event promises a night full of spectacular music, dance, and drinks for all fusion and folk fanatics. Don't miss out on this unique musical journey! **Where- Sunburn Union, Koramangala; When- May 31**

02 Paint your masterpiece

Unleash your creativity at the Paint Bar's Guided Painting Workshop! Whether you're a seasoned artist or a complete beginner, you'll enjoy step-by-step instructions to create your masterpiece. All materials are provided, including a canvas, apron, palette, box of colours, and brushes. Plus, enjoy a complimentary non-alcoholic drink with your ticket. **Where- Paint Bar, Sadashivanagar When- May 31**

Get a good gut feeling with this transplant

Apollo Hospitals, Bannerghatta, now offers faecal microbiota transplant (FMT) treatment for various gut-related issues, including chronic Clostridium difficile infection, inflammatory bowel disease, irritable bowel syndrome, and related mental health problems. This treatment restores the gut microbiota to equilibrium, crucial for maintaining overall health. The therapy involves transferring faecal matter from a healthy donor to the recipient's digestive system to balance gut bacteria.

Dr Narasimhaiah Srinivasaiah, senior consultant at Apollo Hospitals and Head of the Apollo Institute of Colorectal Surgery, has collaborated with national and international institutions on this programme. He highlighted the importance of understanding the gut-brain-pelvic floor connection, stating, "What we are is a consequence of what we have inside our guts." Dr Manish Mattoo, CEO of the Karnataka & Central Region, Apollo Hospitals, added, "The FMT programme is another example of our commitment to providing our patients with the highest quality of healthcare, even in extremely complicated situations."

VK Education fair starts off with a bang

Thousands flock to Jnana Jyoti Centre for expert guidance, diverse educational opportunities, and career planning resources

The VK Education Fair, a highly anticipated event for students and education enthusiasts, opened its doors on Saturday with remarkable success. Held at the Jnana Jyoti Centre, the fair attracted thousands of students, parents, and educators from across the region, eager to explore the myriad opportunities and resources available for higher education and career planning.

The event was inaugurated by Dr Sharan Prakash Patil, the Minister of Medical Education, who set the tone for the day with an inspiring speech. Dr Patil emphasised the importance of such events in bridging the gap between students and educational institutions. "Education fairs like these play a crucial role in guiding our youth towards informed decisions about their futures. It's an excellent platform for students to explore diverse fields and find their true calling," he said.

Adding to the excitement, the fair also featured celebrity guests, actor Rishi and actress Sangeetha Sringeri. The celebrities interacted with attendees, sharing their educational journeys and encouraging students to pursue their dreams with determination and passion. Sangeetha Sringeri remarked, "Education is the foundation of success. It's wonderful to see so many young minds eager to learn and grow." Professor Lingaraj Gandhi from Bengaluru City University commented, "This fair is a fantastic opportunity for students to explore and understand the various paths available." Actor Rishi added, "I believe in the power of education to transform lives.

Events like the VK Education Fair are vital because they provide students with the information and inspiration they need to succeed. I'm honoured to be part of this initiative."

The fair featured stalls from prestigious universities, colleges, vocational institutes, and educational service providers, offering a comprehensive array of courses and programs. Representatives from various institutions were on hand to provide detailed information, answer queries, and offer guidance on admission procedures, scholarships, and career prospects.

Ananya Sharma, a student, shared her excitement: "The VK Education Fair was amazing! I learned so much about the latest trends in technology and how I can prepare myself for a career in this field. I'm really glad I came to the fair. Talking to the experts gave me a clearer picture of what to expect and how to prepare for my future academics. It's been an eye-opening experience." The fair also provided ample networking opportunities, allowing students to connect with peers, mentors, and industry professionals. These interactions not only broadened their horizons but also helped them build valuable connections for their future careers.

"Talking to the experts gave me a clearer picture of what to expect and how to prepare for my future academics. It's been an eye-opening experience – Ananya Sharma, a student

Another student, Sukruta D, said, "The turnout and the positive feedback from students and parents have been incredible. This fair has truly made a significant impact, and I encourage everyone to make the most of this opportunity."

For those who missed the opening day, the VK Education Fair will continue on Sunday, promising another day filled with informative sessions, interactive workshops, and valuable networking opportunities. Students are urged not to miss the second day, as it offers a chance to explore new avenues, gain insights from experts, and take concrete steps towards their educational and career goals.

— Prakash VL

6,551 crimes against women in Karnataka

In the first half of 2024, Karnataka has witnessed an alarming rise in crimes against women, with a total of 6,551 cases reported under various sections of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and special laws.

According to the data by the Karnataka State Police, as of April 2024, sexual violence remains a grave concern in the state. Rape, categorised under Section 376 IPC, accounted for 196 cases. This includes one case of custodial rape, six instances of gang rape, and 189 other rape incidents. Additionally, molestation, defined under Section 354 IPC, saw a staggering 2,333 cases.

Kidnapping and abduction cases, specified under Section 366 IPC, amounted to 41 cases. Insulting modesty, often colloquially known as eve-teasing, recorded 36 cases under Sections 294 and 509 IPC.

Despite ongoing efforts to combat dowry-related violence, Karnataka reported four dowry murders and 35 dowry deaths by means other than burning under Sections 302 and 304-B IPC, respectively. Additionally, there was one attempt to commit murder for dowry by burning and 12 by other means under Section 307 IPC. Murders for reasons unrelated to dowry reached 137, while 265 attempts to commit murder for other reasons were recorded. Cruelty by husbands or relatives, prosecuted under Section 498-A IPC, accounted for 1,065 cases, indicating prevalent domestic abuse. Furthermore, there were 55 cases of abetment of suicide under Section 306 IPC.

Human trafficking, addressed under the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, accounted for 112 cases. Cybercrimes, a growing menace in the digital age, surged to 2,204 cases. Among other offences, there were 45 cases

against public servants under various sections of the IPC (182-188, 333, 353), and 10 offences related to marriage. While there were no reported cases under the Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act or pornography-related crimes, these zero counts should not be misconstrued as the absence of such issues but rather a possibility that people are not filing an FIR.

— Ahna Prkash

Private schools mandated to disclose fees

Education Department also warns schools against conducting interviews & tests during admissions

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The Education Department has mandated that private schools in the state disclose their fee structure for the 2024-25 academic year. With 17,125 private schools statewide, many have already begun their admission processes. However, the department has clarified that students and parents must not be subjected to any tests or interviews during admissions.

Despite these directives, many private schools disregard the rule and conduct tests and interviews for students and parents. Admission is only confirmed after successfully passing these assessments. In prestigious schools, the parents' profession plays a significant role, with seats often reserved for those with high incomes or businesses.

An official stated, "The department has issued a warning that schools must adhere to the prescribed fees and not solicit donations. They are also prohibited from subjecting students to any tests or interviews. The approved fee structure must be prominently displayed on the school website and notice board. Any school violating these regulations will face a fine of Rs 25,000." The Education Department has issued a circular with explicit guidelines, mandating that only the prescribed fees can be collected from students, and donations in lieu of fees are strictly prohibited. Furthermore, the circular stipulates that students must not be subjected to any tests or interviews during the admission process, and the prescribed fee structure must be prominently displayed on the school website and notice board.

Students allege erratic evaluation

Controversies surrounding the SSLC exams continue to escalate. Following the uproar over students receiving bulk grace marks to pass, numerous students are now alleging significant discrepancies in the evaluation process. For instance, Akash claims 70 marks shortchanged him in Social Science due to an entry error. Nayashree was shocked to find that answers totalling 10 marks were not evaluated in her paper. Similarly, Prakruthi pointed out that nine marks were not assessed in her Science exam.

Uniforms of girls from Grade 6 onwards studying in govt schools to be changed

Change in school uniforms for girls

Meanwhile, the Education Department has announced a new initiative to provide school uniforms to girls from the 6th grade onwards studying in government schools. "Under the Vidya Vikas Yojana, the distribution of two pairs of uniforms to government school students across the state has begun. Those who have secured the tenders have started delivering the uniforms to their respective districts. While the process is complete in some areas, it remains ongoing in others. The department has clarified that only the uniform material will be provided, and parents will be responsible for the cost of stitching. To ensure the quality of the uniform material, the department has instructed the DDPIs to randomly collect one sample from each taluk and send it to the Primary Education Director's office, labelled with the supplier's name, within a week of receiving the supply," said an official.

Boosting enrolment in govt schools

The Education Department has issued directives to increase student enrolment in government schools for the upcoming 2024-25 academic year. To achieve this goal, district and taluk officials have been tasked with conducting a door-to-door survey to identify children not attending school and encourage their return. The department is aiming for 100 per cent enrolment in government schools. Starting from May 31, officials will conduct surveys across all taluks and districts to identify out-of-school children. As part of this initiative, newly enrolled students will receive uniforms and textbooks. Additionally, officials are instructed to disseminate information about this enrolment drive to all stakeholders, including parents, teachers, and students.

MOVIE REVIEW: EVIDENCE (KANNADA) A TALE OF FRIENDSHIP AND BETRAYAL » PG 16

Bengaluru's trees are still tangled up in cable chaos

Cable operators continue to use trees as Palike hasn't offered any alternative

Y Maheswara Reddy
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The BBMP Forest Department has enforced a ban on the practice of using trees for securing cables by telecom service providers and cable operators. Despite the issuance of an order by the BBMP Tree Officer in September 2021, these entities persist in using trees for cable-tying purposes. At Cambridge Layout, cable operators and telecom service providers have been observed using trees for cable fastening, thereby endangering the overall health and growth of the trees. Concerned locals have expressed dissatisfaction with the BBMP Forest Department's lack of action. They claim that no actions have been taken to penalize individuals responsible for attaching cables or to ensure the trees remain free from cables.

Condition of a tree at Cambridge Layout

Locals expressed their dismay."We have been working for greenery in this area by planting saplings. It pains me whenever I come across cables dangling from trees. I request the BBMP Forest Department to take action," says Sudhakar S, vice president, of Someshwarapura Welfare Association. "It is a huge chaos. The BBMP appears to lack any plan for managing cables. I believe the BBMP should provide alternative solutions for telecom service providers and cable operators," R Balakrishnan, a resident adds.

After receiving directives from the High Court in August 2021 to remove unauthorized cables from various sources, including trees, the BBMP took steps such as issuing warnings and legal actions against cable tying on trees. However, it appears that the BBMP has not consistently enforced these measures, leading to ongoing cable tying on trees. Vijay Nishanth aka Tree Doctor, an urban conservationist criticises those who are responsible for this practice, "Cable operators damage trees and their overall growth with this practice," he said. V Shiva Kumar, a social activist, emphasized the need for BBMP authorities to take strong measures. Meanwhile, BBMP Deputy Range Forest Officer (East), Thimmappa, stated that utilising trees for tying cables goes against regulations."We have been advising the cable operators and telecom service providers not to use trees for tying cables but they continue to misuse trees. I will send workers to remove those cables from trees at Cambridge Layout," he said.

Dangling Cables: A growing hazard in Bengaluru

Across the city, it is observed that there is an increase of dangling cables and wires suspended carelessly, which are becoming an eyesore and a prominent safety hazard for passersby. The tangle of cables, strung from one point to another are seen hanging mid-air, raising several issues to public welfare and security. Venkatesh, a concerned resident of Rajajinagar remarked, "Anybody and everybody just pulls out the cables from one point to another, through the trees and over the buildings. Just lift your head and you will see it. This is pathetically spoiling whatever is left of the city's beauty."

Speaking of the threats and hazards posed by this, he said, "During the rainy season, these wires come down which results in a dangerous situation for commuters, specifically for bikers."

The haphazard installation of these cables, primarily by internet, telephone and power service providers, has drawn the ire of many locals who feel it takes away from the city's aesthetic appeal and jeopardizes their safety. With cables drooping low in some areas, pedestrians are at risk of injury, and the potential for electrical hazards and accidents cannot be ignored. Parvati Nair, a student residing in S.G Palya, Adugodi says, "The disorganized and unsystematic manner in which the live wires and electrical cables are arranged is alarming, walking through my neighbourhood can be risky. We have to move very carefully, mindful of where we set our foot to stay safe, this is no measure of public safety."

A regular walker, Vikram Ponappa said, " Internet Connectivity has become a necessary evil, that everyone is willing to overlook the haphazard loose cables, hanging from trees, parapets, and water tanks, have resulted in accidents, causing moped riders to lose balance and pedestrians to trip unexpectedly. Several cables are now useless, but they are still tied between trees and poles. The solution lies with the service provider taking ownership and the government enforcing the law." — Ankita Govind

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Canal overflow
Whitefield

The incomplete Rajakaluve project and rampant garbage dumping by the nearby settlement pose a severe threat. With the monsoon approaching, the overflowing canal under the road is expected to cause blockages and flooding in areas like Whitefield's Borewell Road.

Road hazard
Vasanth Nagar

A hazardous rod is protruding onto the road, posing a significant risk.

CHANGE OF NAME

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Workshop helps kids look for trash treasures

Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Treasures from Trash 2.0 hosted a workshop for 35 children and their parents, focusing on the significance of tree planting, beginning small-scale initiatives at home, waste reduction, and innovative reuse, including cooking with discarded items. Participants engaged in cooking demonstrations and tasted the dishes, while also discovering how to create bio-enzymes from fruit peels and planting spinach stems. The workshop sparked interest among children keen on eco-friendly practices and conservation efforts, prompting plans for more such programs by Beautiful Bharat.

Odette Katrak, a sustainability advocate, enlightened children and their parents about the value of watermelon rinds, during the event organised by Pwall Milestone and Clamshell Mont in collaboration with Beautiful Bharat at Banashankari. "Besides just having fun, we wanted children to learn about sustainability and this event was the best way to achieve that. Odette did a great job explaining the importance of repurposing items instead of discarding them, emphasising the significance of planting, utilising, or consuming them appropriately, along with guiding waste segregation," said Prajwal Gowda of Pwall Milestone.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, I discovered the nutritional value of the white rind of watermelon while trying to minimise waste, as a teammate from Beautiful Bharat suggested. It rapidly filled up my composter and provided extra moisture, leading me to advocate for its use in dishes like dosa, jam, pickle, or curry. I even questioned why compost couldn't be eaten, as it's rich in vitamins. Starting the monthly contest "Treasures from Trash 2.0" aimed to raise awareness about repurposing waste through recipe submissions," Odette said.

During the workshop, children were introduced to bioenzymes, also known as organic cleaners, crafted from waste. Pomegranate peels were showcased for the demonstration, while the fruit itself was utilised for organic painting. Among the 4-year-olds present, 'biodegradable' was perhaps the most significant new term they grasped.

Littering unchecked
KR Puram

Garbage is dumped daily between the government school and Topmart, with no BBMP Marshals conducting checks.

THE SUNDAY READ

When catastrophe calls

File photo of trees of a forest in the hills of Sandoor chopped off for mining, in Ballary district

Report analysing state of environment in country over last decade calls it exacerbating crisis

| Rachana Ramesh
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Fridays for Future (FFF), Bahutva Karnataka and People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL) in collaboration have come up with a report analysing the state of India's environment in the past decade. The report deemed it an "exacerbating crisis".

The report began by noting that India has ranked last in the world, that is, 180 out of 180 countries on the 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI), a sustainability ranking system developed by Yale and Columbia university. India's ranking has plummeted from 125 in the 2012 EPI to the bottom in the course of a decade under BJP's rule, it said. The EPI ranks countries on their national efforts to protect environmental health, enhance ecosystem vitality, and mitigate climate change and our country's dismal performance is only telling of its sustainability efforts.

The report noted that the total number of Environmental (EC), Forest (FC), Wildlife (WL) and Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) clearances granted by the Ministry of Environment Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) increased 21 times, from 577 in 2018 to 12,496 in 2022.

"The only obstacle to the destruction of the environment, cutting of trees, polluting activities by industries, businesses and adverse impact of projects by state and private interests, are the protective laws. In an ideal system, projects that damage the environment would not be allowed or granted clearance under the laws. However in the same period that environmental pollution and climate change impacts were on a steady rise in our country, destructive developmental activities were given an impetus by diluting the environmental protections in law," it explained, citing that more than 100 amendments were made to the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006 between 2018-2023 alone.

Ease of doing business

It further pointed out that Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification, 2020 was introduced in the midst of the covid-19 pandemic with an aim to supersede the existing EIA Notification of 2006 and further enhance the "ease of doing business" by easing approval of project applications and granting licenses. Among the various drastic regressions proposed under the law, the 2020 notification removed 40 types of projects from the requirements of the prior EC. It also removed the requirement for mandatory public consultation for most projects, thereby taking away the right of affected communities and local stakeholders from being consulted on the project.

"The Forest Conservation Act, 1980 (FCA) is crucial in conserving forest and biodiversity in India. It mandates obtaining prior approval from the central government for any project or activity involving clearing of forest. The Government introduced amendments to the FCA in 2023 changing the very definition of forest, to narrow the scope of lands covered under the definition. It also limited the applicability of FCA to eliminate safeguards for areas classified as deemed forests and community forests, thereby placing approximately 25% of India's forested areas at risk of urbanisation, mining, and infrastructure expansion. This change infringes upon the rights of indigenous tribes and forest-dwelling communities to be mandatorily consulted before granting approval for diverting forest land for non-forestry activities, and to self-govern as outlined in the Forest Rights Act of 2006 (FRA) and under the Provisions of the Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996 (PESA) - rights already diluted considerably by this regime," the report elaborated.

Cut down forests

Another astonishing statistic mentioned in the report is that between 2014 and 2020, less than one percent forest clearances (allowing forest diversion for non-forestry activities i.e. facilitating deforestation) were rejected by the government.

Highlighting the silencing of activists working towards sustainability, the report noted that India was ranked as the fourth deadliest country by environmental activists as per the Defenders of the Earth report released by Global Witness in 2017.

It also made a mention of the 22-year-old climate Bengaluru activist Disha Ravi, who was arrested by the Cyber Crime unit of the Delhi Police on charges of sedition and criminal conspiracy for her involvement in a "toolkit" in support of the farmers protesting against the contentious farm laws in 2021.

The arrest was based on no evidence and no charge sheet has been filed by the police in her trial so far.

For more information on other regulatory amendments, reports regarding mining, pollution and climate change, one can access the report through the social media handle of Bahutva Karnataka.

> **In the same period that environmental pollution and climate change impacts were on a steady rise in our country, destructive developmental activities were given an impetus by diluting the environmental protections in law**
>
> –Report by FFF, Bahutva Karnataka and PUCL

BBMP asks cops to bring 9 relocated strays back

Animal lovers of apartment complex had raised complaint with police about dogs having been driven away

| Garima Prasher
garima.prasher@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Animal Husbandry Department of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has issued an unprecedented direction in a recent case of relocation of nine street dogs from a gated community in Harlur.

Citing the Animal Birth Control Rule of 2023, the civic agency has instructed Parappana Agrahara Police Station to bring the animals back to SJR Bluewaters Apartments, the housing society from where the dogs were allegedly relocated nearly 10 days ago.

"As per the complaint filed by some residents, nine stray dogs were living inside the layout as community animals. Per the Supreme Court order, relocation of stray dogs is illegal. Please take appropriate legal action and resettle the displaced animals immediately," said the letter by BBMP.

BM, in its May 21 edition, highlighted the issue after the group of caretakers living in the community filed a police complaint against the management of the society for allegedly maiming and relocating these community animals. The caregivers alleged that nine community dogs were living within the premises of SJR Bluewaters Apartments for more than five years and were being taken care of by a group of animal lovers residing in the community. The animal lovers and caretakers had also employed a daily wage earner as a dedicated feeder to ensure daily feeding of these community dogs in an isolated and non-frequented area within the community premises. They contributed to the management of these animals and got them vaccinated and neutered with the help of BBMP-authorized NGO (ASRA) and other private clinics.

"Most of these dogs were also collared. However, over the last five years, the feeders (who are mostly women) have faced constant harassment from a few other residents who threatened, assaulted, intimidated, abused, and harassed them including the daily wager employee. There have also been instances of physical assault on these women including on the Dedicated Feeder on several occasions," noted the complaint letter by residents to BBMP.

The feeders raised grievances with the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA), and on several occasions, the SPCA representatives called and issued warnings.

Caretakers say the community dogs have been outside the premises since May 15 and they are unaware of their feeding situation and fearful of their safety. The dogs have taken refuge inside Hosa Lake premises.

"The letter by BBMP to police clearly states that the dogs are to be brought back to the society. We are waiting for police officials to facilitate the process. We plan to file an animal cruelty case against those responsible for injuring the animals and relocating them," said a resident of the apartment complex.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

ALERT EYES

A grey owlet sits deep in thought. Perhaps, wondering when it will rain again

The picture was clicked by reader **Chandar Natarajan**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Greening Kanakapura Road: A safe passage for elephants

700 trees planted by volunteers to restore habitat and mitigate human-animal conflict

Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima
@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In a unique and environmentally significant initiative, RR Nagar I Care, in collaboration with the Karnataka Forest Department, transformed a section of Kanakapura Road into a green haven for elephants. On Saturday, May 25, volunteers from across the city gathered to plant approximately 700 trees, aiming to create a dense forest corridor that will provide a safe crossing for elephants. This initiative responded to the ongoing expansion of Kanakapura Road into a four-lane highway with service roads, which had disrupted traditional elephant routes.

The plantation drive took place near the new overbridge connecting UM Kavale forests and the Devika Rani estate, an area covered with soil. The effort included a diverse array of saplings, generously sponsored by corporations and provided by the Karnataka Forest Department. Species planted included bamboo, Honge (Indian beech), Nerale (jamun), Lakshmi Tharu (parijata), and neem, among others.

Nivedita Sunkar from RR Nagar I Care, the organisation spearheading the initiative, expressed her enthusiasm: "This project is not just about planting trees; it's about restoring balance and creating a sustainable environment for our majestic elephants. By providing them with a safe corridor, we ensure their well-being and mitigate the risks of human-animal conflict."

Creating a dense forest corridor for elephants is crucial for several reasons. Elephants are migratory animals that traverse long distances in search of food and water. The fragmentation of their habitat due to road expansions and urbanisation can lead to increased human-elephant conflicts, often resulting in tragic outcomes for both humans and elephants. A dedicated green corridor ensures that elephants can move safely between forest patches, reducing the likelihood of accidents and fostering biodiversity.

Residents of Kanakapura showed overwhelming support for the initiative, highlighting the community's dedication to environmental conservation. Chaitanya, a volunteer, said, "This plantation initiative marks a significant step towards environmental stewardship and wildlife conservation. It was heartening to see so many people coming together for a common cause."

Kanakapura Road (file photo)

DID YOU KNOW?

The IIMB campus, occupying an area of over 100 acres, is located on Bannerghatta Road. The college was designed by Pritzker prize winning architect BV Doshi. Doshi, also a Padma Bhushan awardee, had previously assisted Louis Kahn on the design of IIM Ahmedabad. In 1972, a committee headed by Ravi J Matthai, founding director of IIM Ahmedabad and IRMA, noting the rising demand for graduates of the first two prestigious IIMs namely IIM Calcutta and IIM Ahmedabad, recommended the need to have two more IIMs. The Institute at Bangalore was set up to cater exclusively to the needs of public sector enterprise. The institute was inaugurated by Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, on 28 October 1973.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

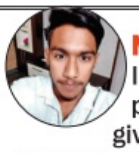
Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

TAPTHECHATTER

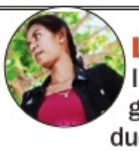
where Bengalureans speak their mind

Can you share any memorable or worst experience in BMTC buses

Manoj Kumar, BM Reader
One evening, around 4, I took the bus from Uthralli to Electronic City (378). I bought a ticket to Electronic City, the driver was driving recklessly, jumping signals as there was less traffic. At one place due to a big pothole, the back glass of the bus was damaged.



Narasimha D, BM Reader
I took 210 N bus in Devegowda petrol bunk to Chamarajapete. I give the conductor Rs 100 to take a ticket. He got really rude with me and asked me to get down. He stopped the bus and then I had to get down.



Latha c, BM Reader
I get 410 FA bus in Nayandalli. I gave give my Aadhaar card to the conductor. He said they don't allow this as the photo was not updated and doesn't look like me. So I had to give money and take a ticket to Summanahalli.

Raju, BM Reader
The incident I saw once in a BMTC bus. A boy approximately 25 years old, touched a girl inappropriately she asked him to say sorry. I don't know if it was by mistake. But later the girl moved away, but the boy came up to her and did the same/ That guy approached her again, touching her inappropriately. Then the passengers and the conductor confronted him, and expelled him from the bus.

Padma, BM Reader
I took a BMTC bus from Mejestic to Shivajinagar. The bus was extremely crowded. I got the ticket and put my purse and phone into my bag. I got a seat in the next stop and when I looked in my bag, the phone and purse were gone. I frantically asked the conductor for help, also the passengers but no one had seen anything. I tried calling my phone, but it was switched off.

SPEAK TO US

Which traffic offences you have come across the most often on Bengaluru's busy roads?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

Cats on the moon? Wrong answer!

Google's AI tool is producing misleading responses that have experts worried

Google's search engine used to spit out a ranked list of websites that might help you figure out an answer to your question

Ask Google if cats have been on the moon and it used to spit out a ranked list of websites so you could discover the answer for yourself.

Now it comes up with an instant answer generated by artificial intelligence -- which may or may not be correct.

"Yes, astronauts have met cats on the moon, played with them, and provided care," said Google's newly retooled search engine in response to a query by an Associated Press reporter.

It added: "For example, Neil Armstrong said, 'One small step for man' because it was a cat's step. Buzz Aldrin also deployed cats on the Apollo 11 mission."

None of this is true. Similar errors — some funny, others harmful falsehoods — have been shared on social media since Google this month unleashed AI overviews, a makeover of its search page that frequently puts the summaries on top of search results.

The new feature has alarmed experts who warn it could perpetuate bias and misinformation and endanger people looking for help in an emergency.

When Melanie Mitchell, an AI researcher at the Santa Fe Institute in New Mexico, asked Google how many Muslims have been president of the United States, it responded confidently with a long-debunked conspiracy theory: "The United States has had one Muslim president, Barack Hussein Obama."

Mitchell said the summary backed up the claim by citing a chapter in an academic book, written by historians. But the chapter didn't make the bogus claim — it was only referring to the false theory.

"Google's AI system is not smart enough to figure out that this citation is not actually backing up the claim," Mitchell said in an email to the AP. "Given how untrustworthy it is, I think this AI Overview feature is very irresponsible and should be taken offline."

Google said in a statement Friday that it's taking "swift action" to fix errors — such as the Obama falsehood — that violate its content policies; and using that to "develop broader improvements" that are already rolling out. But in most cases, Google claims the system is working the way it should thanks to extensive testing before its public release.

"The vast majority of AI Overviews provide high-quality information, with links to dig deeper on the web," Google said a written statement. "Many of the examples we've seen have been uncommon queries, and we've also seen examples that were doctored or that we couldn't reproduce."

It's hard to reproduce errors made by AI language models — in part because they're inherently random. They work by predicting what words would best answer the questions asked of them based on the data they've been trained on. They're prone to making things up — a widely studied problem known as hallucination.

The AP tested Google's AI feature with several questions and shared some of its responses with subject matter experts. Asked what to do about a snake bite, Google gave an answer that was "impressively thorough," said Robert Espinoza, a biology professor at the California State University, Northridge, who is also president of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists.

"The more you are stressed or hurried or in a rush, the more likely you are to just take that first answer that comes out. And in some cases, those can be life-critical situations

But when people go to Google with an emergency question, the chance that an answer the tech company gives them includes a hard-to-notice error is a problem.

"The more you are stressed or hurried or in a rush, the more likely you are to just take that first answer that comes out," said Emily M Bender, a linguistics professor and director of the University of Washington's Computational Linguistics Laboratory. "And in some cases, those can be life-critical situations."

That's not Bender's only concern — and she has warned Google about them for several years. When Google researchers in 2021 published a paper called "Rethinking search" that proposed using AI language models as "domain experts" that could answer questions authoritatively — much like they are doing now — Bender and colleague Chirag Shah responded with a paper laying out why that was a bad idea.

They warned that such AI systems could perpetuate the racism and sexism found in the huge troves of written data they've been trained on.

"The problem with that kind of misinformation is that we're swimming in it," Bender said. "And so people are likely to get their biases confirmed. And it's harder to spot misinformation when it's confirming your biases."

Another concern was a deeper one — that ceding information retrieval to chatbots was degrading the serendipity of human search for knowledge, literacy about what we see online, and the value of connecting in online forums with other people who are going through the same thing.

Those forums and other websites count on Google sending people to them, but Google's new AI overviews threaten to disrupt the flow of money-making internet traffic.

Google's rivals have also been closely following the reaction. The search giant has faced pressure for more than a year to deliver more AI features as it competes with ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and upstarts such as Perplexity AI, which aspires to take on Google with its own AI question-and-answer app.

"This seems like this was rushed out by Google," said Dmitry Shevelenko, Perplexity's chief business officer. "There's just a lot of unforced errors in the quality." **AP**

BITS & BYTES

CHARGED UP

Indian-origin researcher Ankur Gupta and his team have discovered a new technology that could charge a dead laptop or phone in a minute or an electric car in 10 minutes. The researchers discovered how tiny charged particles, called ions, move within a complex network of minuscule pores. According to Gupta, an assistant professor at the University of Colorado Boulder, this breakthrough could lead to the development of more efficient energy storage devices, such as 'supercapacitors'. **IANS**

FOR ALL TO SEE

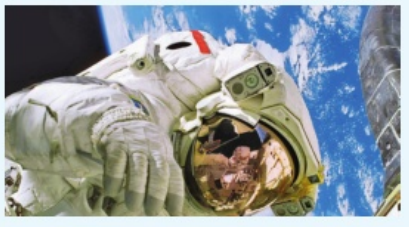
Meta-owned WhatsApp is reportedly working on a new feature that will allow users to see all media shared in community group chats.

As per WABetaInfo, this feature will let community members see an overview of all images, videos, and other media files shared within the community, which will make it easier for them to locate and access shared content.

"This can help in maintaining their own community guidelines, ensuring that inappropriate content is identified and addressed promptly," the report said.

This feature will also benefit community members who are not very active in certain group chats as they will be able to access media shared in those chats. **IANS**

TRAINING FROM NASA



NASA will soon provide advanced training to Indian astronauts to send a joint mission to the International Space Station this year or shortly thereafter, US envoy to India Eric Garcetti has said. Garcetti made these remarks while speaking at the "US-India Commercial Space Conference: Unlocking Opportunities for US & Indian Space Startups," hosted by the US-India Business Council (USIBC) and the US Commercial Service (USCS) in Bengaluru on Friday.

"NASA will soon provide advanced training to Indian astronauts, with the goal of mounting a joint effort to the International Space Station, hopefully, this year or shortly after," he said. **PTI**

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ESTATE & PROPERTIES

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The total area required is 25,000 sft, with a shed area of 15,000 sft and an open land area of 10,000 sft.

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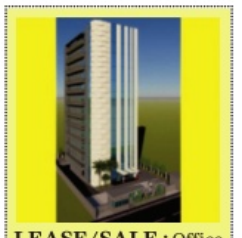

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I, NOOR E SABHA CHIKMAGALUR HANEEF W/o Imran Khan R/at No.Beside Muneer Complex, Makka Masjid Road, Chikkamagalur- 577101 have changed my name to NOOR E SABHA vide affidavit dated: 25/5/2024 Before Notary H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore.

I, MOHAMED HANEEF S/o Abdul Jabbar R/at Beside Muneer Complex, Makka Masjid Road, Chikkamagalur-577101 have changed my name to MOHAMMED HANEEF vide affidavit dated: 25/5/2024 Before Notary H.S.Sakalesh Aradhya Bangalore.

I Sandip Balbhimrao Pawar S/o Balbhimrao Pawar R/o Kamal House Site No.11 Sr.No. 64 Palanahalli Road Kattigenahalli Yelahanka-560064 have changed my name to Sandeep Balbhimrao Pawar for all purposes

I, Parameshwaran S R/o # C 1 Old B Block, Marikuppam (vill & Post) Bangarapet (teh), Kolar (distt),Karnataka (state)-563119 have changed my minor daugh -ter's name from P Deepshikha Bhai to Deepshikha Bhai P for all purposes

I, Sunanda Gore W/o Ganapati V.Gore R/o 3465/E, 1st G Cross, ROC Layout Extn, Vijaya - nagar, B'luru 560040 have changed my name to Sunanda Ganapati Gore for all purposes.

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Take the shrill pill

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The senior citizen says she has tried to bring this issue to the notice of various agencies such as City Traffic Police, but to no avail.

"I have been shouting over the rooftops trying to attract the attention of all agencies through social media sites, but it has been a vain attempt," lamented Rao.

Residents from other areas such as Bannerghatta and Yelahanka are facing similar issues after an increase in demand for water. While prohibited air horns and multi-tone horns have been used on quite a few vehicles on city roads for years, it has become a menace in areas with high water demand.

The cacophony of horns by water tankers has left many residents restless.

According to a resident in Yelahanka, shrill horns from water tankers in his area have gone up as well. So has the multi-tone horns in other vehicles, banned under the Motor Vehicle Rules.

"One can hear honking through the night and early morning. Not just tankers, but tipper trucks, and commercial vehicles like school buses, private buses, and smaller trucks are also using multi-tone and shrill horns," said the resident.

No checks and balance

Raja Kannan, a resident of Begur Kopa Road in Hulimavu and an anti-noise pollution crusader, says while he has been raising the issue with City Traffic Police officials, there has been no effort made to put a check on this menace.

"I have raised complaints regarding illegal horns on multiple occasions with local traffic police. They assure that measures will be taken, but nothing changes on ground. This is not a priority for BTP. The number of cases being registered under the offense has also gone down drastically," said Kannan.

Experts also raise the issue of low penalties being imposed by Bengaluru Traffic Police against vehicular noise pollution offenders. The Indian Motor Vehicles Act of 1988 bars alteration in motor vehicles with those originally specified by the manufacturer and prescribes that the violators be punished. It also states that needless honking should be punishable with a fine of Rs 1,000 and for a second or subsequent offense with a fine of Rs 2,000.

However, BTP put a fine of Rs 500 on the defaulters, irrespective of several offences.

"The traffic police should increase the penalty as prescribed under the Act. A higher amount will ensure more compliance. Cities such as Mumbai and New Delhi are imposing fine amounts as prescribed under the Act. Moreover, agencies such as Regional Transport Offices and Karnataka State Pollution Control Board must join hands with BTP and carry out a crackdown on illegal horns," said Kannan.

Road rule: Fuel check, spare tyre check done

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Similarly, vehicle owners who don't carry spare tyres will also be booked. Without carrying a spare, it leads to traffic pile-ups until the mechanic arrives. We will book cases against the offenders as per IPC 283. The vehicle will be seized, fines of Rs 5-10,000 will be imposed, and fines will have to be paid in court. There will be no spot fining for this offence," said a senior traffic official.

As per IPC 283, "Whoever, by doing any act, or by omitting to take order with any property in his possession or under his charge, causes danger, obstruction or injury to any person in any public way or public line of navigation, shall be punished, with fine which may extend to Rs 200."

High-density corridors

According to traffic cops, there are 12 high-density corridors in Bengaluru. In the list are Bellary Road, Old Madras Road, Old Airport Road, Sarjapura Road, Hosur Road, Bannerghatta Road, Kanakapura Road, Mysuru Road, Magadi Road, Tumakuru Road, West of Chord Road, and Outer Ring Road.

Police officials also clarified that the rule will apply to four-wheelers and above as two-wheelers can be easily moved off the road.

However, this is not the first time traffic cops are implementing this rule. They also observed that most of the vehicles are goods vehicles, vehicles from mechanic shops, and lorries.

HEALTH TIP: Fatty liver can occur due to genetic makeup or consuming excess calories

To keep your liver healthy, decrease your intake of sugar as glucose, fructose, maltose can all convert into fat

Avocado aficionado

Pro tips for turning meh guacamole into great guacamole

Americans have been having a love affair with avocados in recent years. Especially in guacamole.

According to the California Avocado Commission, some 81 million pounds of avocados are consumed in the US during Cinco de Mayo, the annual celebration of Mexican American culture that falls on May 5.

But some guacamoles are disappointing — bland, or watery, or lacking in creaminess. So, what makes the difference between meh guacamole and great guacamole?

"The conversation has to begin with the avocados themselves," says Julian Rodarte, a chef and co-owner of Beto and Son in Dallas, and a guacamole aficionado.

There are hundreds of varieties of avocados, though only a few are commonly available in the U.S. Rodarte says that Mexican Hass avocados (specifically from the Michaocan region of Mexico) are the best avocados for guac, with the highest oil content.

Ivy Stark, chef/owner of the restaurants Mexology and BKLYNwild in New York City, also recommends Hass avocados for guacamole. Avocados with more water in the flesh will break down more quickly, especially when blended with the other ingredients.

To check the ripeness of the fruit (we all know avocado is a fruit, yes?), Rodarte suggests looking for two indicators. First, touch. Gently press the skin and "it will tell you right away if it's soft." Second, break off the little piece of stem at the top of the avocado and look at the little navel-like circle underneath. If it's bright green, the avocado should be ripe. White is under-ripe, and brown is past its prime.

If you need to help your avocados ripen faster, place them in a brown bag or other container with a banana and let them sit for half a day to a day or two. The natural gases emitted by the banana will accelerate the ripening of the avocados.

As for seasonings, Rodarte says, "I eat guacamole for the flavor of the avocados," so he recommends using a thoughtful, light hand. Fine sea salt is his preference, as it melts into the guac "without interrupting the creaminess with crunchy bits of salt."

He also feels that lime or lemon juice alone is too assertive and will overwhelm the delicate flavor of avocado. He always adds in some orange juice, too, and sometimes uses orange juice all on its own, liking the natural balance of sweetness and tartness.

Rodarte recommends mashing the avocados with the seasonings until creamy, and then folding in the other ingredients so they don't break down and make the guacamole watery.

Both Rodarte and Stark recommend using a mortar and pestle to mash the avocados. Rodarte aims for a "whipped butter consistency" while Stark describes her ideal consistency as "soft and chunky." For those of us who don't have a mortar and pestle in the kitchen, Rodarte says a fork is fine, too.

He then stirs in chopped meaty tomatoes, with the juice and seeds removed, and recommends a finely minced white or red onion. He adds finely minced or chiffonaded cilantro, but says "a little goes a long way," so be judicious when adding this strong herb.

Stark thinks cilantro and jalapeños are essential to good guacamole. Rodarte also like the heat of chile peppers in his guacamole, but prefers fresnos or serranos to jalapeños.

Rodarte says the molcajete, or base of the mortar, is the "cast-iron pan of Mexico," taking on flavors from different ingredients over the years.

"Nothing will ever taste like a dish made using your abuelita's mortar and pestle, with years of gradual seasoning," he says.

Rodarte does play with more non-traditional ingredients, too. He's used chili crunch as a finisher, blended in yuzu ponzu sauce, and added a few drops of toasted sesame oil in some versions of guacamole.

Stark offers many twists on guacamole, playing with tropical fruits and berries. She also likes to make versions with shrimp, crab and lobster, and at Mexology they offer a guac with pomegranate seeds and toasted pepitas.

As for the challenge of storing guacamole without it browning, both chefs recommend pressing plastic wrap right on top of it to minimise oxidation. Rodarte also suggests brushing the top of the guacamole with a bit of oil to seal it from exposure to the air.

Keep the guac in the fridge, and if there is some browning, Stark says to just scrape a thin layer from the top before serving.

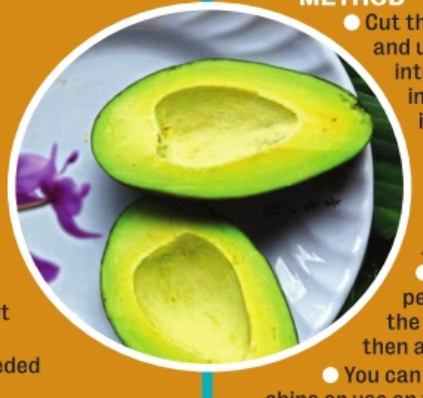
If I know I'm making the guacamole to serve later, I hold back on adding the lime juice to the recipe. I blend everything up, then pour the lime juice over the top, using it to "seal" the top of the guac, and then stir it in just before serving. The proportions will still be perfect, and you will have avoided the browning.

Consider serving guacamole in scooped-out avocado shells. They might be a little wobbly, but you can nestle the shells in a bed of tortilla chips for more stability. **–AP**

The following guacamole recipe is inspired by Rodarte's tips:

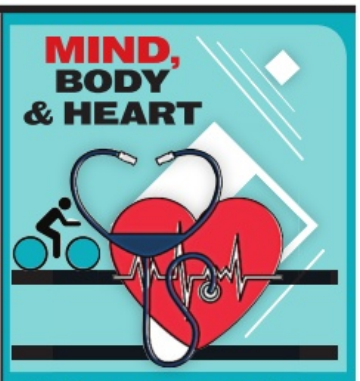
INGREDIENTS

- 2 ripe Hass avocados
- Fine sea salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
- 2 teaspoons fresh lime or lemon juice
- 2 teaspoons fresh orange juice
- 1 cup minced red or white onion
- 1 Roma tomato (cored, seeded, and chopped; about 1/2 cup)
- ½ to 1 teaspoon minced seeded serrano or Fresno pepper
- ½ to 1 teaspoon minced fresh cilantro



METHOD

- Cut the avocados in half, remove the pits, and use a knife to cut the avocado flesh into chunks right in the skin, cutting in one direction and then crosswise in a grid-like fashion. Use a spoon to scoop out all of the flesh into a medium-size bowl. Mash with a fork, or use a mortar and pestle. Blend in the salt, pepper and citrus juices.
- Add the onion, tomato, chile pepper and cilantro and gently fold into the avocado until well blended. Taste, then adjust the seasonings.
- You can serve the guacamole with tortilla chips or use on tacos, burritos, quesadillas or other dishes.



All you need to know about...

Strategies to stay fit

Movement Practice
Our lifestyle has been getting more sedentary these days and our strides are done when we get up to grab a snack. This makes us prone to getting stiff back and gaining weight. Bid adieu to stiff back and fatigue by taking walks in between and dedicate at least an hour post meal to count as many steps as you could. Alternatively, you can use stairs, do a 10-minute workout, or just dance it all out.

Consume Goodness
Grabbing some bites of your favourite snack isn't a crime. Making smart and good choices will serve you in the long run. You may switch to creamy yogurt, nuts, bananas, apples, and so on. A bowl of fresh fruits on your desk can be worthy and fun and your taste buds will love the same. Apart from snack consumption make sure you stay hydrated.

Sweet Sleep
A consistent sleep schedule is a promising pillar and one of the fundamentals of building a healthier life. Bedtime hygiene can be a little ritual you can follow as you hit the bed. Quality sleep doesn't only enhance your mood but proves to improve immunity as well.

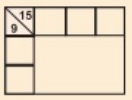
Sweat Session
Sweating helps one to get rid of any toxic elements in the body. It definitely feels rejuvenating!
Considering you have a few minutes you can jump on a HIIT workout session, do a few bodyweight exercises, or just go for a run.
Implementing the above four strategies can help you stay active in the best way possible. **– Femina**

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

Divide 100 into two parts such that 4 times one part is greater by 40 than twice the second part

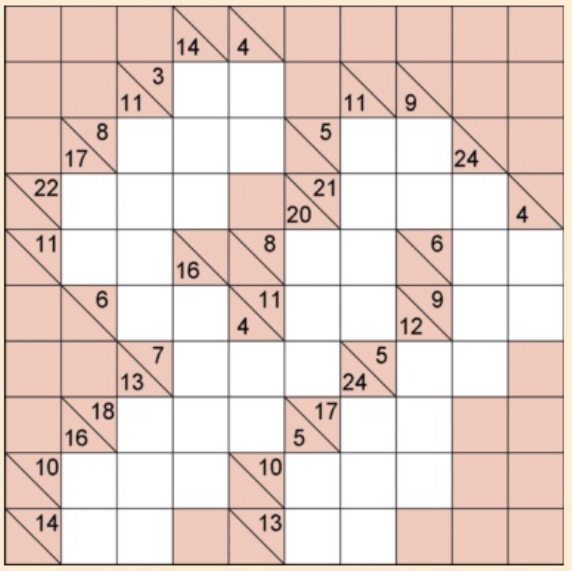
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

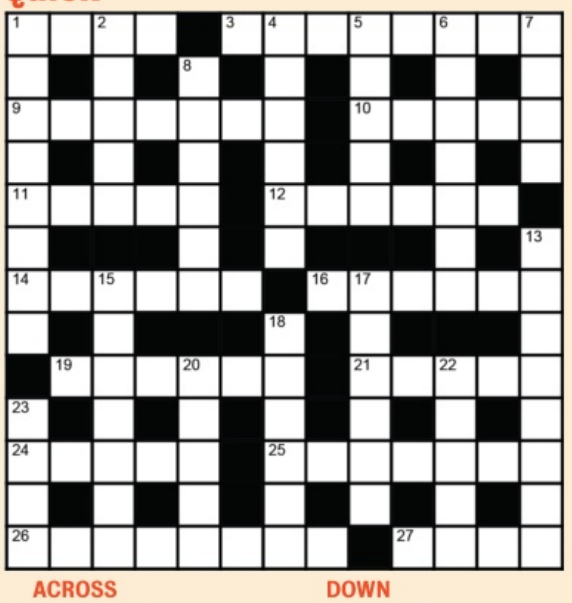


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Assistant (4)
3 Abnormal (8)
9 Capital of Israel (3,4)
10 Slight split (5)
11 A game bird (5)
12 Rural and simple (6)
14 Simpler (6)
16 Noisy disturbance (6)
19 Park spanning 300 acres in the Cantonment Area (6)
21 Bo ____ : No. 10 heroine? (5)
24 Kingly rule (5)
25 Broad oceanic expanse (4,3)
26 Refrained, abstained or halted (8)
27 A large continent (4)

DOWN

1 Old wares (8)
2 Alluvial deposit (5)
4 Inn (6)
5 Selects (5)
6 Stringed keyboard instrument (7)
7 New Testament gospel (4)
8 Develop, come into being (6)
13 Equestrian competition (8)
15 Artists' workrooms (7)
17 Move restlessly (6)
18 Revenue (6)
20 Ties or fastens together (5)
22 Corrodes or oxidises? (5)
23 Parched or dry (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS T

KFI VICN RCA AIDIQ WLQTMDI. WLQTMDIAIGG MG KFI CK-KQMZEKI LW KFI GKQLAT.

Linemaro

Your smile can light up a town

Mindchow

It takes 20 years to make an overnight success

Joke of the day

The penalty for success is to be bored by the people who used to snub you

Loop

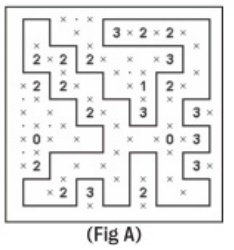
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

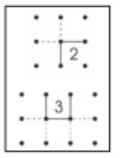
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

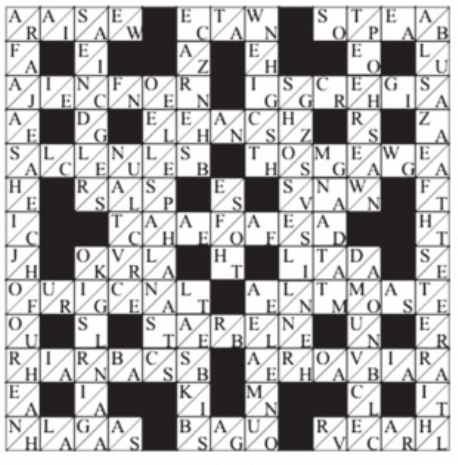


(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed

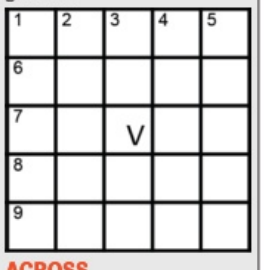
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Nag pa; 6 Smile; 7 Rev hi; 8 Be Dan; 9 D wins

DOWN

1 Whaps; 2 Bail I; 3 Vinge; 4 Named; 5 Rends

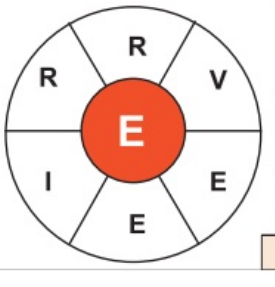
Mensapuzzle

The below set of six numbers has a relationship to the set of six numbers on the left. The two sets of six boxes on the left have the same relationship as the two sets of six boxes on the right. Which set of numbers should therefore replace the question marks?

A	5	9	5	9	1	2
B	5	6	4	6	3	13
C	6	10	5	9	2	1
D	5	9	1	2	5	9
E	5	7	5	9	1	2

3	6	9	4	8	2	■	2	9	7	9	5	6
7	3	8	9	6	4	■	?	?	?	?	?	?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

04 Average; 05 Good; 07 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

	7			9			2	
			4		2			
	2	5	3		1	4	7	
2		7		6		5		4
4		3		1		8		2
	9	2	1		8	3	6	
			7		6			
	5			2			4	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 10

2 3 8 8

Medium = 27

1 2 5 5

Hard = 5

1 6 7 3

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

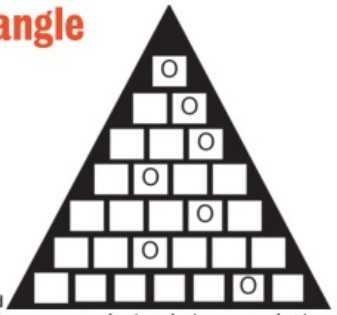
Differences: 1. Shovel handle is shorter. 2. Mirror is wider. 3. Sleeve is shorter. 4. Mouth is different. 5. Shelf is wider. 6. Lapel is missing.

Riddler

Dodgy Dave did such a good job of the housing estate, he was asked to paint the room numbers on all of the doors of the fourth floor of the local hotel. He painted all of the numbers from 400 to 499. How many times did he paint the number 4?

Alpha triangle

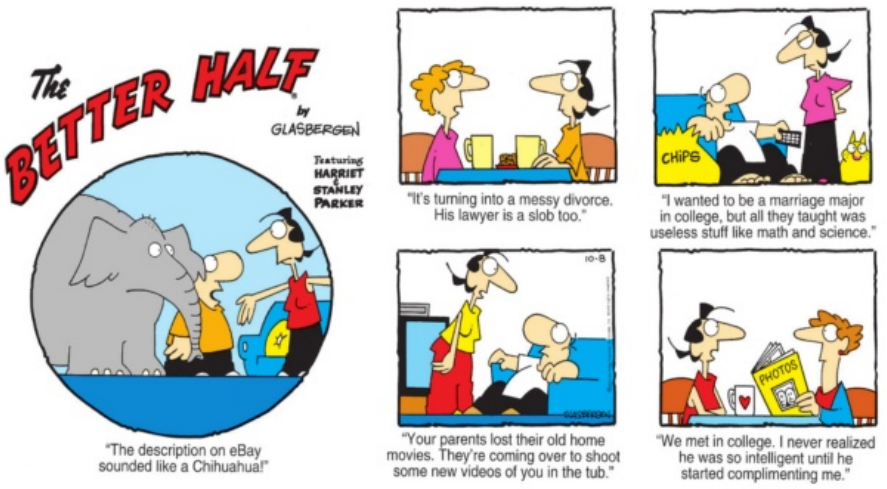
1 Atomic number 8
2 Act
3 Commotion
4 Bubbly water
5 Spanish farewell
6 Evades or eludes
7 Mentor



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"The description on eBay sounded like a Chihuahua!"
"It's turning into a messy divorce. His lawyer is a slob too."
CHIPS
"I wanted to be a marriage major in college, but all they taught was useless stuff like math and science."
"Your parents lost their old home movies. They're coming over to shoot some new videos of you in the tub."
PHOTOS
"We met in college. I never realized he was so intelligent until he started complimenting me."

FLASH GORDON
By JIM KEEFE
6-19
FALLING THROUGH A TRAPDOOR, FLASH AND MING PLUNGE INTO THE DANK CATACOMBS BENEATH THE ARENA.
HAD ENOUGH?
HUH? HUHH?
NOT YET...
NOT AS ELEGANT AS A SWORD, BUT JUST AS DEADLY!
TO BE CONT'D

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today is a good day for your financial health. You may benefit from past investments and gain better control over unnecessary spending, boosting your savings. Love birds are advised to be polite in conversations with their partners to avoid conflicts.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Blessed by the moon, today brings vitality and energy. You may enjoy your work and romantic moments with your spouse, enhancing family harmony. New plans for projects may emerge, with your perfectionism helping to design a solid plan. Job seekers will find good opportunities. Love birds should avoid discussions on trivial matters.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
You may feel disappointed today. Control your arrogance, as it could lead to losses in conversations. Love birds should be cautious in discussions to avoid impacting their relationship.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Blessed by the moon, new sources of income may open up today. Past investments will start yielding profits, boosting your financial health. Health issues related to your parents may be resolved.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you may feel very happy and busy at work. Your seniors may appreciate your efforts, leading to potential changes in your position or responsibilities, possibly a promotion. Your opponents and hidden enemies will be under control. Singles and love birds may make important decisions regarding marriage with help from relatives or friends.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
The messy situation from previous days is now under control, and you are blessed by the moon. You may start working on postponed tasks and get rewarded for your hard work. There are gains in your business, boosting your finances. You might spend money on artefacts or literature and plan for overseas travel.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may be busy with family issues and explore extra sources of income. Interest in artefacts, movies, or glamour may improve your creativity. Love birds have a clear view of their relationships. Students can now progress towards their career goals.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
You may not feel well today, with potential health issues affecting your professional and domestic life. Your spouse's health issues might also upset you. Your patience will be tested, so avoid investing in new business projects to prevent losses. Students should avoid fantasies and focus on their studies.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Blessed by a positive moon, you may feel healthy, with old health issues possibly cured. Stuck funds may be recovered, and you might apply for a loan to purchase luxury items.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Feeling dull and lazy today, you may be unfocused at work. Impatience might negatively affect you, and health concerns for your kids and spouse could be upsetting. Avoid making investments in assets. Love birds should steer clear of family arguments.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Negative vibrations may make you unhappy today. Avoid investing in worthless assets and don't expect much support from friends, as it may upset you further. Follow your intuition before making important decisions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
You may successfully implement business plans with the support of your subordinates. Social or family gatherings could boost your network. Short business-related travels may bring benefits in the near future.

KIDZONE

Sanket Karkhanis, 6 Years, Brigade School

B R Darshan, 7 Years, Daffodils English School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011;
Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
40+2x=4(100-x)
2x+4x=400-40
6x=360
x=60
1st part: 100-x=40
2nd part: 60
4*40=2*60+40

RIDDLER
120 times: don't forget rooms 440-449.

FAST FIVE

P	A	G	A	N
S	L	I	M	E
H	I	V	E	R
A	B	E	N	D
W	I	N	D	S

BULL'S EYE
eerie, eerier, ever, revere, REVERIE, river, veer

STRIKE OUT

N	A	G	S		S	A	O		V	E	A	L		
A		I		K		M		L		I				
A		R	A	S	S		A	R	A	B	I	A		
H	A	R	A	S		S		A	B	L	E			
U		L		T	A	B	L	E		U		R		
O	R	I	E	N	T		A	L	M	O	S	T		
H		O	R	A		T		L	A	D		E		
C			C	H	A	F	F	E	D			H		
H		R	A	P		E		V	A	N		T		
S	C	E	N	E	S		H	O	M	A	G	E		
E		G		L	E	A	C	H		R		Z		
J	E	N	N	E	R		I	S	C	H	I	A		
A		I		A		H		E		L				
R	I	S	E		C	A	W		S	T	A	B		

QUICK

D	E	S	I	S	T	E	D		A	S	I	A		
I		O		D		M		T		T		N		
R	E	I	G	N		O	P	E	N	S	E	A		
A		D		I		C		G		U		H		
C	U	B	B	O	N		D	E	R	E	K			
S		T			I			I				M		
E	A	S	I	E	R		A	F	F	R	A	Y		
U		V		N			E		G					
Q	U	A	I	L		R	U	S	T	I	C			
I		T		O		E		K		V		E		
T	E	L	A	V	I	V		C	R	A	C	K		
N		E		E		A		I		L		U		
A	I	D	E		A	T	Y	P	I	C	A	L		

MENSA PUZZLE
A: the bottom six-digit number is double the top six-digit number.

QUOTE UNCODE
The weak can never forgive. Forgiveness is the attribute of the strong.

SUDOKU

8	7	4	6	9	5	1	2	3
1	3	6	4	7	2	9	5	8
9	2	5	3	8	1	4	7	6
2	1	7	8	6	9	5	3	4
5	8	9	2	3	4	6	1	7
4	6	3	5	1	7	8	9	2
7	9	2	1	4	8	3	6	5
3	4	1	7	5	6	2	8	9
6	5	8	9	2	3	7	4	1

ALPHA TRIANGLE
0 , Do, Ado, Soda, Adios, Avoids, Advisor.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 – 2 x 3 – 8 = 10
Medium
5 x 5 + 2 / 1 = 27
Hard
3 – 6 + 7 + 1 = 5

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Happy 52nd
Filmmaker Karan Johar on Saturday announced his new feature film on the occasion of his 52nd birthday

Gush, gush

Hubby Ranveer can't stop dropping loved-up comments on Deepika's new pics

After Deepika Padukone shared a series of pictures in a beautiful yellow flowy dress that elevated her charming personality, her husband and actor Ranveer Singh couldn't resist complimenting his wife.

Taking to Instagram stories, awestruck Ranveer dropped pictures of Deepika along with a caption that read, "Uff! Kya Karun main? Marr jaun?"

In another picture, he wrote, "buri nazar wale tera moonh kala," accompanied by an evil eye.

In the last image, he affectionately called Deepika his sunshine.

Deepika Padukone and Ranveer Singh are expecting their first child in September.

Deepika stepped out in style in Mumbai on Friday.

Before heading to launch her skincare brand in Tira's store, the mom-to-be took to Instagram and treated fans to a couple of images in which she could be seen basking in the glow of her pregnancy.

On Monday, Deepika and Ranveer were spotted at a polling booth to cast their votes in the fifth phase of the Lok Sabha elections.

The Bollywood power couple, twinning in white, radiated joy as they arrived at the polling booth in Mumbai. Deepika, beaming with her pregnancy glow, donned an oversized white shirt and light blue denim, her baby bump subtly visible, while Ranveer complemented her in a white ensemble.

ANI

EVIDENCE (KANNADA)
3.0 RATING ★★★★★
- **DIRECTOR** Praveena CP
- **ACTORS** Robo Ganesh, Manasa Joshi, Akarsh Aditya, Rachita, Manmohan Rai, Shivakumar Aradhya, Chamak Chandra, and Karthik Varnekar.
- **Duration** 102 minutes
- **Certification** UA

A tale of friendship and betrayal

Evidence revolves around jealousy, friendship, love, lust and murders. Director Praveen CP, who makes debut as an independent director in Sandalwood with this movie, has succeeded in keeping the audiences on the edge of their seats. Appropriate introduction of evidence at regular intervals to make the process of interrogation interesting is his USP and what is more, he has ensured there is much-needed relief to the audiences at intervals. The introduction of Robo Ganesh in a new avatar indicates the director is all set to come up with a sequel – Ravana arrives - to this movie.

The movie begins with Shashi (Karthik Varnekar) visiting an isolated place by mistake. He finds a bag, consisting of a stethoscope and a camera, in his car. At this juncture, the director narrates how the government appointed police officer Priya Ramakrishnan (Manasa Joshi) to investigate the deaths of Swaroop (Akarsh Aditya) and Sanvy (Rachita) that were assumed to be suicides. Priya summons Dr Kevin (Robo Ganesh) to the police station. The process of interrogation begins and the latter denies his involvement in the murder that is closed by the police as a suicide case. What happens to Dr Kevin and whether or not the police officer produces the evidence to prove Dr Kevin guilty is what the movie is all about.

Robo Ganesh is convincing as the villain. His body language and gestures are good. Manasa Joshi, as a tough cop, has acted well. Rachita has tried her best to prove her dance skills. Manmohan Rai and Shivakumar Aradhya provide good support. Well-known Telugu actor Chamak Chandra, who plays still photographer Pushpa, fails to impress. His dialogue delivery is not up to the mark. It is not clear why the director selected Chamak Chandra for this movie.

The song – Ayyayyo Aremanake Rekke Bandanthaagide – sung by Chetan Naik is melodious.

It is worth a watch for those who crave suspense thrillers.

–Y Maheswara Reddy